



## Summary

### Main Features

#### NOTES

#### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

#### ISSUE (QUARTER)

January 2009  
April 2009  
July 2009

#### Release Date

16 January 2009  
2 April 2009  
3 July 2009

#### DATA CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE

The statistics shown are the latest available at 18 September 2008. Data sources for the tables in this publication are listed in Appendix 1.

#### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The labour underutilisation tables (tables 4.1 to 4.5) have been changed, following the introduction of the new quarterly labour force underutilisation rate in the July 2008 issue of this publication. See Labour Statistics News for more information.

#### ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

The spreadsheets and data cubes referenced in this publication are available on the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Access to all ABS products & statistics - By Catalogue Number - 6. Labour Statistics and Prices].

#### INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

For information about other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

## Labour statistics news

### LABOUR STATISTICS NEWS

#### LABOUR THEME PAGE

The ABS Labour Theme Page, available on the ABS website, provides a guide to the range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data released. To find the Theme Page, go to <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Themes - People - Labour].

#### NEW LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION TABLES

Following the introduction of the new quarterly labour force underutilisation rate in the July 2008 issue of this publication, the labour underutilisation tables (tables 4.1 to 4.5) have been changed to introduce the new quarterly series. The new quarterly series has a more conceptually correct basis than the previous annual rate, and has provided the opportunity to produce more frequent and timely measures of change in underemployment, and in turn the labour force underutilisation rate. Data on persons not in the labour force, which was previously included in Table 4.5, can now be found in Table 4.6.

#### IMPROVED FAMILY ESTIMATES FROM THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

On 16 October 2008, ABS will publish improved estimates of families from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the period August 2004 to August 2008, and will publish monthly family estimates thereafter. While estimates of the labour force characteristics of families have been produced from the LFS since 1979, the survey was not specifically designed to produce high quality family estimates. The improved estimates make better use of the data available from the survey, and implement an improved weighting methodology. Together these changes will deliver improved family estimates which are more in line with estimated resident population (ERP) and other ABS collections. The datacubes containing the improved family estimates are to be released in Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001) on 16 October 2008. Details of the improved method have been published in an information paper

**Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey** (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002) on 17 September.

For further information, please contact Carmel O'Regan on 02 6252 6127 or email [carmel.oregan@abs.gov.au](mailto:carmel.oregan@abs.gov.au).

**CHANGE TO LFS REFERENCE WEEK**

Labour Force Survey information is obtained by specially trained interviewers, using face to face and telephone interview collection methods, from the occupants of selected dwellings. Most information obtained in the LFS relates to the week before the interview, known as the reference week.

The ABS has recently decided to change the start of LFS interviewing from a Monday to a Sunday, in order to increase the likelihood of making contact with households, thereby increasing efficiency. From September 2008, LFS interviewing will begin on the Sunday between the 5th and the 11th of each month, instead of the Monday between the 6th and the 12th.

With the change to the start date of LFS interviewing, the ABS will also change the reference week. Currently, the reference week is the Monday-Sunday before the interview. From September 2008, the reference week will be the Sunday-Saturday before the interview, that is, the reference week will be one day earlier than the current reference week.

ABS has determined that the statistical impact of this change is likely to be very small. There will be no impact on LFS release dates.

**RESULTS OF THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY BASED ON THE REDUCED SAMPLE SIZE**

One of the consequences of the ABS budget situation in 2008-09 has been a reduction in the sample size of the Labour Force Survey from July 2008. Results from the Labour Force Survey for July 2008 are based on the reduced sample. For further information about the sample reduction, see the April 2008 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).

**ABS EMAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE**

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**Recent and upcoming statistical releases**

Release date/title of publication	Reference period	Catalogue number
September 2008		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)October 2008	1350.0
Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)	(a)2006 (Revision 1.0)	1292.0
Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	(a)2008	6224.0.55.002
Industrial Disputes, Australia	June 2008	6321.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia	August 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	August 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	August 2008	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Quarterly	August 2008	6291.0.55.003
Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators	(a)2008	1383.0.55.001
Selected Characteristics of Australian Business	2006-07	8167.0
October 2008		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)November 2008	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	(a)October 2008	6105.0
Counts of Australian Business Operators	2006-2007	8175.0
Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia	April to July 2007	6361.0
Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia - Confidentialised Unit Record File	April to July 2007	6361.0.55.001
Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Australia - Confidentialised Unit Record File, User Guide	April to July 2007	6361.0.55.002
Labour Force, Australia	September 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	September 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	September 2008	6291.0.55.001
Labour Mobility, Australia	February 2008	6209.0
November 2008		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)December 2008	1350.0
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	August 2008	6302.0
Education and Work, Australia	May 2008	6227.0
Labour Force, Australia	October 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	October 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	October 2008	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic Confidentialised Unit Record File	February 2008	6202.0.30.004
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File	February 2008	6202.0.30.006
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files, Technical Manual	February 2008	6202.0.30.005
Labour Price Index, Australia	September 2008	6345.0
December 2008		
Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits	Jun 2003 to Jun 2008	8165.0
Industrial Disputes, Australia	September 2008	6321.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia	November 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	November 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	November 2008	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Quarterly	November 2008	6291.0.55.003
January 2009		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)January 2009	1350.0
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)February 2009	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	(a)January 2009	6105.0
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia	2007-08	6248.0.55.002
Job Search Experience, Australia	July 2008	6222.0
Labour Force, Australia	December 2008	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets	December 2008	6202.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Delivery, Monthly	December 2008	6291.0.55.001
Microdata: Multi-Purpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08	2007-08	4100.0.55.001
Multi-Purpose Household Survey, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, Technical Manual	2007-08	4100.0

(a) Refers to the issue of the publication, not the reference period.

# Labour Market Summary

## LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY

### KEY MEASURES

Measure		Series type	Period	Current figure	% CHANGE FROM	
					Previous quarter(a)	Previous year(b)
Employed						
Persons	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	10 734.9	0.3	2.2
Full-time	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	7 714.2	0.6	2.4
Part-time	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	3 020.7	-0.6	1.6
Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment	%	Trend	Aug 2008	28.1	(c)-0.3	(c)-0.2
Unemployed						
Persons	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	474.2	0.9	0.4
Looking for full-time work	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	325.2	1.5	1.6
Looking for part-time work	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	149.0	-0.6	-2.1
Unemployment rate						
Persons	%	Trend	Aug 2008	4.2	(c)0.0	(c)-0.1
Long-term unemployment						
Persons	'000	Trend	Aug 2008	66.6	-5.2	-5.6
As a proportion of total unemployment	%	Trend	Aug 2008	14.0	(c)-0.9	(c)-0.9
Long-term unemployment rate	%	Trend	Aug 2008	0.6	(c)0.0	(c)0.0
Quarterly labour underutilisation rates(d)						
Unemployment rate(e)	%	Trend	Aug 2008	4.1	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.2
Underemployment rate	%	Trend	Aug 2008	5.9	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.5
Labour force underutilisation rate(f)	%	Trend	Aug 2008	9.9	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.7
Children living without an employed parent(g)	%	Original	Jun 2008	12.7	na	(c)-1.0
Labour force participation rate(g)						
Persons aged 15-64 years	%	Original	Aug 2008	75.8	(c)-0.7	(c)0.1
Total	%	Trend	Aug 2008	65.2	(c)0.0	(c)0.2
Actual hours worked						
Aggregate weekly hours	mill. hours	Original	Aug 2008	367.7	-0.4	2.1
Average weekly hours - Persons	hours	Original	Aug 2008	34.5	-0.4	-0.2
Average weekly hours - Full-time	hours	Original	Aug 2008	41.3	-1.0	-0.5
Average weekly hours - Part-time	hours	Original	Aug 2008	17.0	0.7	0.7
Part-time workers						
Proportion who preferred to work more hours	%	Original	Aug 2008	21.6	(c)-0.8	(c)-1.1
Wage price index						
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses	index no.	Original	Jun qtr 2008	118.7	0.9	4.2
Average weekly earnings						
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	Trend	May 2008	1 132.20	0.9	4.0
All employees total earnings	\$	Trend	May 2008	891.10	0.6	2.8
Compensation of employees						
Household income account	\$m	Trend	Jun qtr 2008	137 356	1.6	6.6
Average earnings (National Accounts basis nominal) per week	\$	Trend	Jun qtr 2008	1 114	1.0	3.7
Industrial disputes						
Working days lost	'000	Original	Jun qtr 2008	86.5	102.3	1 113.4
Working days lost per 1,000 employees	number	Original	Jun qtr 2008	9.2	100.5	1 086.4
Job vacancies(h)						
Australia	'000	Trend	May 2008	183.6	1.1	9.0

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) See the Glossary for further explanation of labour underutilisation rates.

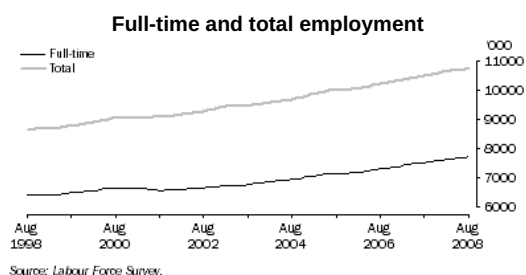
(e) The quarterly unemployment rate is compiled using data collected in the quarter months and may differ slightly from the official monthly unemployment rate.

(f) Discrepancies may occur due to rounding.

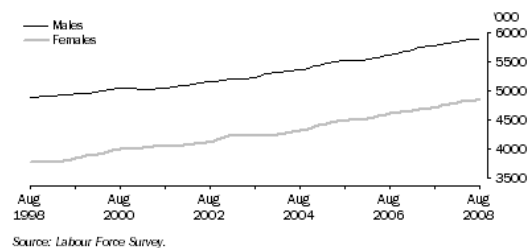
(g) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years. See the Explanatory Notes for information on family data.

(h) The Job Vacancies Survey will not be conducted in 2008-09. The May issue of the publication **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no. 6354.0), released in June 2008, was the final issue for 2008-09. The survey may be reinstated in 2009-10.

### EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

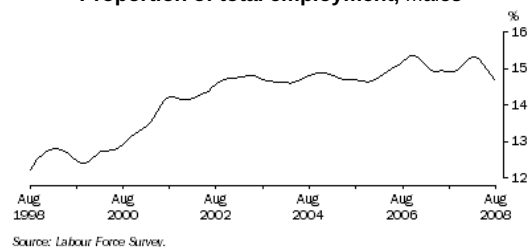


### Males and females

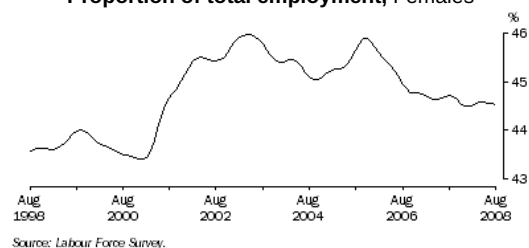


## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

Proportion of total employment, Males

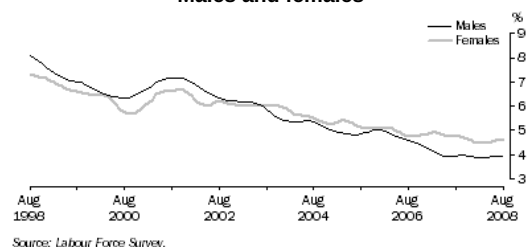


Proportion of total employment, Females



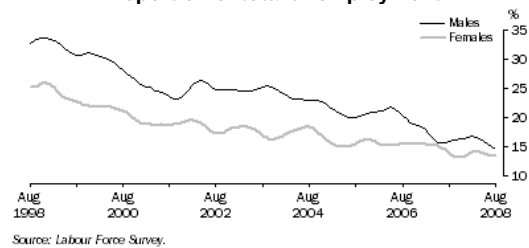
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

Males and females



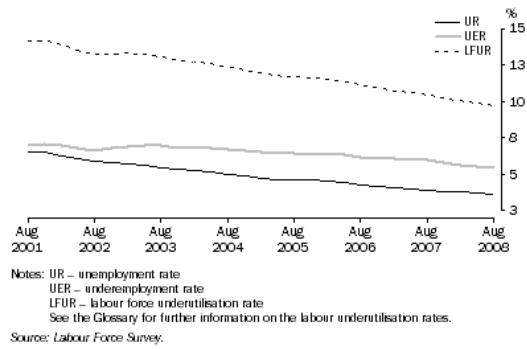
## LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

Proportion of total unemployment

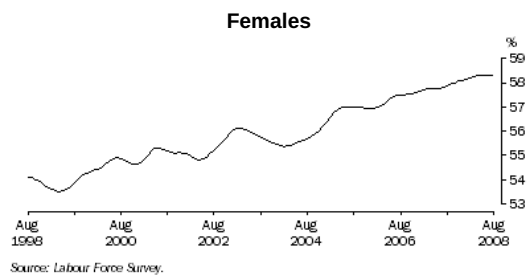
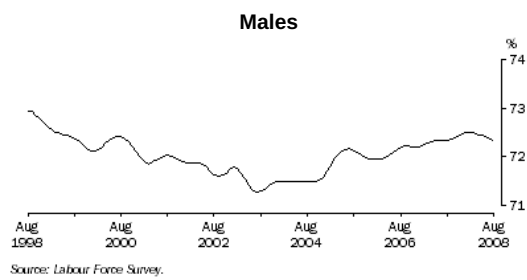
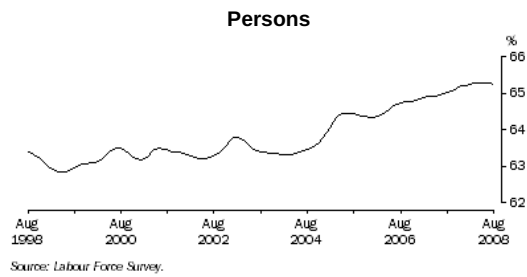


## UNDERUTILISED LABOUR

Quarterly labour underutilisation rates

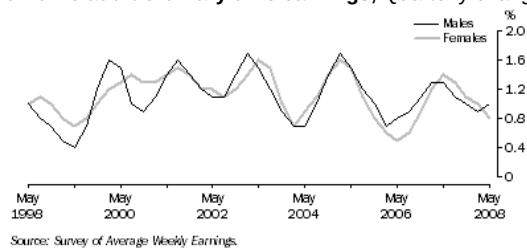


## PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES

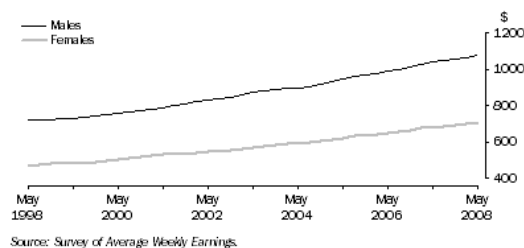


## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES

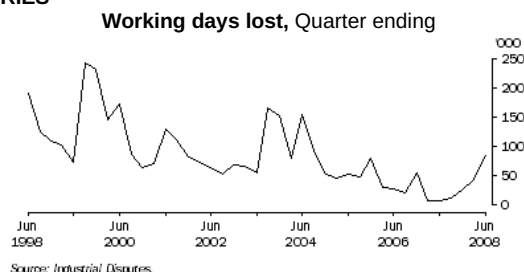
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings, Quarterly change



All employees total earnings, Level



## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES



## JOB VACANCIES: TREND SERIES



## About this Release

This publication draws together labour statistics from a range of ABS household and business surveys, to provide an overall picture of the labour market. The key purpose of this publication is to raise awareness of the data available, so that users will be able to use it more effectively.

It contains tables for core data items, presenting the most recent data available at a particular date (rather than relating to a particular reference period). It is also able to be used to announce the release of supplementary surveys and infrequent surveys. Note that, in addition to a brief article in this publication, these would also have separate releases, which would not be delayed by the release in this publication.

The publication is also used to release annual data on Indigenous labour force status, and annual supplementary measures of labour underutilisation. It includes a range of feature articles, both analytical and technical, which will assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and will also promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program. It will be used to announce any changes to labour series or releases.

The publication contains brief explanatory notes, outlining each data source, but referring to the relevant releases, and to Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods 6102.0.55.001, for more detail.

## Interstate Commuters (Feature Article)

This article was published in the October 2008 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

### INTERSTATE COMMUTERS

### AN ANALYSIS OF 2006 CENSUS DATA

## INTRODUCTION

This article aims to provide a brief analysis of those employed people who live in one state but work in another, and who are referred to in this article as interstate commuters. The movement of these workers across state and territory borders may have implications for how Federal, State and Local Governments plan and distribute funding, infrastructure and other amenities relating to both their resident and working populations. The article uses data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and relates to the main job of the individual in the week prior to the Census.

## BACKGROUND

The five yearly Census collects a large amount of information about Australia's population, including information on people's age, sex and place of usual residence, as well as information about their employment, such as industry and occupation, and their place of work. The Census attempts to measure some of the same concepts that are measured in the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The latter provides Australia's official estimates of employment and unemployment. However, there are methodological and statistical differences between the two sources, and as such the data presented in this article differ from LFS estimates for the same period. For more information regarding the differences between Census and Labour Force Survey data, please refer to the technical report 'Census and the Labour Force Survey' in the October 2007 issue of [Australian Labour Market Statistics](#) (cat. no. 6105.0).

According to the 2006 Census, 101,300 people commuted interstate for work in the week prior to the Census, accounting for 1% of all employed persons. Of those, 62% were men and 38% were women. The age distribution of people who commuted interstate for work was similar to that of all employed people.

## COMMUTING FROM

People who lived in the Australian Capital Territory were more likely to commute interstate for work, partly reflecting its small size and the fact that it is surrounded by New South Wales. In 2006, 4% of all employed people living in the Australian Capital Territory commuted interstate for work in the week prior to the Census followed by those living in New South Wales (2%) and the Northern Territory (2%).

In terms of numbers, however, New South Wales had the largest number of people who commuted outside of the state to work (48,300) followed by Victoria (20,200) and Queensland (15,500).

## COMMUTING TO

The Australian Capital Territory received proportionally more interstate commuters than any other state or territory. In 2006, 12% of people working in the Australian Capital Territory were usual residents of another state or territory. These people commuted into Canberra from nearby Queanbeyan, Yass and adjacent semi rural areas of New South Wales.

New South Wales received the largest number of interstate commuters (30,000), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (22,500), Victoria (17,900) and Queensland (16,900).

### 1. Employed persons(a), Place of usual residence and place of work(b)

Place of Usual Residence(b)	Place of work(b)								Total employed exited No.	Total employed No.
	NSW No.	Vic No.	Qld No.	SA No.	WA No.	Tas No.	NT No.	ACT No.		
NSW	2 718 323	12 352	11 816	739	1 373	229	734	21 016	48 259	2 766 582
Vic	13 297	2 141 997	2 617	1 352	1 344	416	586	625	20 237	2 162 234
Qld	9 081	2 267	1 720 747	742	1 388	203	1 330	490	15 501	1 736 248
SA	921	1 341	834	655 089	686	72	483	153	4 490	659 579
WA	865	945	748	432	884 869	74	544	126	3 734	888 603
Tas	365	585	366	109	249	194 508	86	74	1 834	196 342
NT	191	197	298	149	389	14	80 942	44	1 282	82 224
ACT	5 328	230	188	47	79	10	52	163 524	5 934	169 458
Total employed entered	30 048	17 917	16 867	3 570	5 508	1 018	3 815	22 528	101 271	..
<b>Total employed</b>	<b>2 748 371</b>	<b>2 159 914</b>	<b>1 737 614</b>	<b>658 659</b>	<b>890 377</b>	<b>195 526</b>	<b>84 757</b>	<b>186 052</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>8 661 270</b>

.. not applicable

(a) Excludes those employed people who did not say where they were working (not stated).

(b) 'Other Territories' excluded from analysis due to very small numbers.

### 2. Interstate commuters, Proportion of all employed persons(a)

States and territories(b)	Proportion employed who commuted from		Proportion employed who commuted to	
	%		%	
NSW	1.7		1.1	
Vic	0.9		0.8	
Qld	0.9		1.0	
SA	0.7		0.5	
WA	0.4		0.6	
Tas	0.9		0.5	
NT	1.6		4.5	
ACT	3.5		12.1	
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1.2</b>		<b>1.2</b>	

(a) Excludes those employed persons who did not say where they were working (not stated).

(b) 'Other Territories' excluded from analysis due to very small numbers.

## COMMUTING FLOWS

Table 3 shows that of those who lived in New South Wales but worked interstate, 44% worked in the Australian Capital Territory, 26% in

Victoria and 25% in Queensland. The combination of these three bordering states accounted for 94% of employed people who lived in and commuted from New South Wales.

For employed people who lived in and commuted from Victoria, 66% worked in New South Wales and 7% worked in South Australia, both of which share a border with Victoria. This pattern was similar for most other states and territories, where a minimum of 65% of employed people who commuted into a state for work came from one of its bordering state or territories.

However, this was not the case with Western Australia. About 68% of employed people who commuted from Western Australia went to non-bordering states - Victoria (25%), New South Wales (23%) and Queensland (20%).

### 3. Interstate commuters, Proportion from each state(a)

Place of Usual Residence(b)				Place of work(b)		Tas %	NT %	ACT %	Total %
	NSW %	Vic %	Qld %	SA %	WA %				
NSW	..	25.6	24.5	1.5	2.8	0.5	1.5	43.5	100.0
Vic	65.7	..	12.9	6.7	6.6	2.1	2.9	3.1	100.0
Qld	58.6	14.6	..	4.8	9.0	1.3	8.6	3.2	100.0
SA	20.5	29.9	18.6	..	15.3	1.6	10.8	3.4	100.0
WA	23.2	25.3	20.0	11.6	..	2.0	14.6	3.4	100.0
Tas	19.9	31.9	20.0	5.9	13.6	..	4.7	4.0	100.0
NT	14.9	15.4	23.2	11.6	30.3	1.1	..	3.4	100.0
ACT	89.8	3.9	3.2	0.8	1.3	0.2	0.9	..	100.0

.. not applicable

(a) Excludes those employed persons who did not say where they were working (not stated).

(b) 'Other Territories' excluded from analysis due to very small numbers.

## NET FLOWS

The net flow, or the difference between the number of people leaving and entering the state or territory for work, shows that there was an uneven exchange of employed people across state borders. The greatest net loss was for New South Wales where 18,200 more employed people left the state than entered for work in the week prior to the Census, followed by Victoria (a net loss of 2,300). The greatest net gains occurred in the Australian Capital Territory where 16,600 more employed people commuted to the territory than out of it, the Northern Territory (a net gain of 2,500), and Western Australia (a net gain of 1,800) (see Table 4).

### 4. Net flow of employed persons who commuted to work, by state and territory

Place of Usual Residence(a)	Total commuted entered	exited	Difference (entered - exited)
NSW	30 048	48 259	-18 211
Vic	17 917	20 237	-2 320
Qld	16 867	15 501	1 366
SA	3 570	4 490	-920
WA	5 508	3 734	1 774
Tas	1 018	1 834	-816
NT	3 815	1 282	2 533
ACT	22 528	5 934	16 594
<b>Australia</b>	<b>101 271</b>	<b>101 271</b>	<b>..</b>

.. not applicable

(a) 'Other Territories' excluded from analysis due to very small numbers.

## IN WHICH INDUSTRIES DO COMMUTERS WORK?

Interstate commuting is more closely associated with some industries than others. For example, the Public administration and safety industry accounted for just 7% of all employed people in 2006 but represented 14% of all interstate commuters in 2006.

Similarly, the Mining industry accounted for 1% of all employment in 2006, but 3% of all interstate commuters and people working in Construction accounted for 8% of total employment, but represented 9% of all interstate commuters. While workers in both of these industries are predominantly male (85% of people working in the Mining industry in 2006 were male, while for Construction it was 86%), among commuters in these two industries there were even higher proportions of males (95% and 92%, respectively).

People working in the Retail trade industry were less likely to commute interstate for work. Retail trade represented 12% of all employment in 2006, but just 9% of all interstate commuters worked in this industry. Similarly, the Manufacturing industry accounted for 11% of all employed people in 2006 but just 10% of employed interstate commuters.

The industries accounting for the highest proportion of interstate commuters varied by state and territory. Manufacturing was the most common industry in which people who commuted to New South Wales and Victoria worked. In 2006, 11% of those who commuted to New South Wales and 16% of those who commuted to Victoria worked in the manufacturing industry. In contrast, Mining was the most common industry in which people who commuted to South Australia (13%) and Western Australia (19%) worked. This is associated with the large amount of mining activity in these states. For more information see the article entitled "Towns of the mineral boom" **Australian Social Trends, 2008 issue** (cat. no. 4102.0).

People working in the Construction industry accounted for 20% of those who commuted to work in the Northern Territory and 15% of those who commuted to Queensland, reflecting the high levels of construction activity occurring within these two economies with some of this construction associated with developments in mining. In contrast, in Tasmania the largest group of workers commuting to that state (17%) worked in the Transport, postal and warehousing industry.

In the Australian Capital Territory, more than one third of commuters (34%) came to work in the Public administration and safety industry, reflecting the fact that this is the single largest industry in the Australian Capital Territory, accounting for 32% of total employment in the ACT in 2006.



## 5. Proportion of employed persons who commuted to each state/territory, by Industry

Industry(b)	Place of Work(a)									Male commuters %
	NSW %	Vic %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas %	NT %	ACT %	Total %	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.5	3.3	4.4	7.5	4.0	7.2	5.4	0.3	3.5	73.3
Mining	1.0	1.4	3.9	13.3	18.5	2.8	12.0	-	3.1	94.8
Manufacturing	11.1	15.9	9.3	12.6	7.0	7.5	7.2	4.1	9.8	78.6
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.2	2.7	0.3	0.8	1.0	80.5
Construction	8.2	6.4	14.7	9.6	17.3	7.0	19.9	5.6	9.4	92.3
Wholesale trade	5.4	6.4	4.0	3.6	2.8	2.9	1.2	2.6	4.3	68.0
Retail trade	10.1	11.0	8.0	5.4	5.5	7.7	4.0	7.1	8.6	46.0
Accommodation and food services	8.3	5.3	9.1	4.3	5.8	5.4	6.8	3.8	6.5	42.8
Transport, postal and warehousing	7.9	7.1	6.1	9.3	8.3	17.3	5.4	3.1	6.5	81.5
Information media and telecommunications	1.7	2.3	1.9	2.3	1.2	1.8	1.1	2.4	2.0	61.9
Financial and insurance services	2.8	3.0	2.2	2.0	1.1	2.8	0.5	1.9	2.3	52.1
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1.4	1.1	2.1	0.7	0.9	1.9	0.7	1.2	1.3	52.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	5.3	6.8	6.3	5.4	6.4	4.7	3.7	10.3	6.8	62.4
Administrative and support services	2.5	3.3	3.4	3.5	2.7	2.5	3.9	2.5	2.9	51.2
Public administration and safety	9.4	7.6	5.4	7.1	8.3	5.5	13.3	34.3	13.9	59.8
Education and training	5.3	5.4	4.5	3.0	2.1	4.9	4.0	6.8	5.2	36.4
Health care and social assistance	8.9	8.5	9.0	5.0	4.2	10.8	6.4	8.2	8.2	23.8
Arts and recreation services	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.5	1.0	3.0	2.3	1.4	1.9	59.9
Other services	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.9	3.6	2.8	58.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>61.4</b>

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) 'Other Territories' excluded from analysis due to very small numbers.

(b) Industry is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0).

## IN WHICH OCCUPATIONS DO COMMUTERS WORK?

In 2006, the occupational distribution of interstate commuters broadly reflected the occupational distribution of all employed people, although people in the higher skilled occupations were slightly more likely to commute than others. Those working in the Professional occupation group accounted for 22% of all interstate commuters, while they represented 21% of all employed. Similarly, Technicians and trades workers accounted for 16% of all interstate commuters and 14% of all employed people, and Managers accounted for 15% of commuters and 14% of all employed. While Machinery operators and drivers are the smallest occupation group among commuters (7%), their representation is a little larger than might be expected given that this occupation group represents slightly less than 7% of all employed. Conversely, Sales workers account for 10% of the total employed, but they only represent 8% of commuters.

Among the states and territories there was an interesting pattern in relation to the top occupations in which interstate commuters worked. For almost all states and territories (except Western Australia and the Northern Territory) people working as Professionals formed the largest single group of interstate commuters, reflecting the fact that this is the single largest occupation group among employed people. In particular, for the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, Professionals were a particularly important group of commuters, accounting for 29% of people commuting to Tasmania, and 27% of people commuting to the ACT.

However, for those resource rich states experiencing high levels of mining and construction activity the importance of Technicians and trade workers was apparent. While people in this occupation group accounted for 14% of all employed people in 2006, they represented 29% of workers commuting to the Northern Territory, 25% of those commuting to work in Western Australia, 19% going to Queensland and 18% of those going to South Australia.

## 6. Proportion of employed persons who commuted to each state/territory, by Occupation

Occupation(b)	Place of work(a)									Male commuters %
	NSW %	Vic %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas %	NT %	ACT %	Total %	
Managers	15.7	15.3	13.0	14.9	11.3	16.6	9.7	17.7	15.2	69.9
Professionals	21.1	21.2	19.3	20.3	21.9	28.5	19.7	26.7	22.1	55.3
Technicians and trades workers	14.8	13.8	18.7	17.7	25.2	14.3	28.9	11.7	15.8	88.0
Community and personal service workers	9.9	8.4	9.1	8.4	6.1	10.4	8.6	8.5	8.9	43.4
Clerical and administrative workers	11.5	10.3	10.3	6.1	6.0	7.0	5.9	21.4	12.5	28.1
Sales workers	9.3	11.2	8.4	5.9	3.7	6.4	3.1	5.3	7.9	42.7
Machinery operators and drivers	7.5	7.8	7.7	12.9	11.4	3.3	9.7	3.6	7.1	93.0
Labourers	10.2	11.9	13.5	13.8	14.4	13.5	14.4	5.1	10.5	70.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>61.4</b>

(a) 'Other Territories' excluded from analysis due to very small numbers.

(b) Occupation is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0).

## Measures of Casual Employment (Feature Article)

This article was published in the October 2008 issue of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0).

### MEASURES OF CASUAL EMPLOYMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

Over the past 25 years, shifting requirements in the workplace and changing lifestyle patterns have led to a growth in forms of employment other than the 'traditional' arrangement of full-time, ongoing wage or salary jobs, with regular hours and paid leave. These changes have led to a greater interest in the role of casual employment in the workplace, as it is one form of employment where there can be a range of differing circumstances and individual impacts, both positive and negative.

Casual employment may have advantages for both employees and employers. Casual employment arrangements can provide flexibility for balancing work, family, study and other commitments. However, people who are employed as casuals for extended periods of time may not receive the same entitlements as ongoing employees. For example, their working conditions may involve low levels of training, poor career opportunities and adverse occupational health and safety outcomes (**end note 1**).

Casual employment can be difficult to define and is therefore difficult to measure accurately in a single statistic. Currently, three different measures of casual employment are used in Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household surveys which relate to employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). These are:

- employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements
- employees (**end note 2**) who considered their job to be casual; and
- employees (**end note 2**) who received a casual loading as part of their pay.

The purpose of this article is to provide a brief overview of these measures. It will then compare differences and the overlap between them, using data from the November 2006 Working Time Arrangements (WTA) Survey (**end note 3**). This survey is currently the only supplementary survey to collect all three measures of casual employment.

## OVERVIEW

In November 2006, there were an estimated 8 million people who were employees (**end note 2**) in their main job. Of these, 4.1 million (52%) were men and 3.8 million (48%) were women.

### Employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements

It is estimated that there were 1.8 million employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements in November 2006. This represented close to a quarter (23%) of all employees (**end note 2**). Of those employees (**end note 2**) without leave entitlements, 795,000 (44%) were men and 1 million (56%) were women. Nearly one in five (19%) of all male employees (**end note 2**) were without paid leave entitlements, compared to 26% of all female employees (**end note 2**).

The ABS defines employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements as 'employees (**end note 2**) who were not entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave in their main job'.

This measure, 'employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements', is widely used, and is considered a proxy for casual employment. However, it has its limitations as it does not fully capture attributes typically associated with casual employment, such as precariousness of tenure and variability of hours and earnings.

In addition, an important issue that affects this and the other two measures is the fact that information collected in the WTA survey, as with other supplementary surveys, uses the Any Responsible Adult (ARA) method (**end note 4**). This method assumes that the responding member of the household can respond accurately and answer questions on another person's behalf about their leave entitlements, whether they receive a casual loading and their perception of whether their job is casual.

### Employees (**end note 2**) who consider their job to be casual

In November 2006, there were an estimated 1.8 million employees (**end note 2**) who considered their main job to be casual (representing 22% of all employees (**end note 2**)). Of these, 726,800 (41%) were men and 1 million were women. About 18% of all male employees (**end note 2**) considered their job to be casual, compared to 27% of all female employees (**end note 2**).

These employees (**end note 2**) are more commonly referred to as 'self-identified casuals', and are defined by the ABS as, 'employees (**end note 2**) who consider their job to be casual'. Self-identification is the simplest means of gathering information about casual employment, but its subjective nature may be limiting. For example, two people might work in the same type of job with the same arrangements yet, they may have differing views on whether that job is casual or not.

A major limitation of this measure is that people's individual perceptions about their job may not be known to the person responding to the survey on behalf of the household. However, the usefulness of this measure is that it may give some indication of how precarious people feel their employment is.

### Employees (**end note 2**) who receive a casual loading

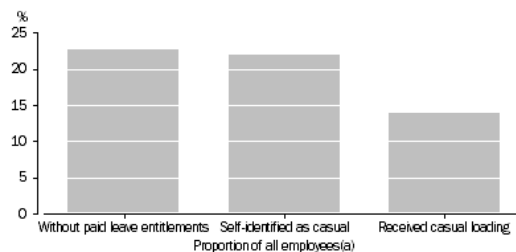
In November 2006, there were an estimated 1.1 million employees (**end note 2**) who were reported as receiving a casual loading as part of their pay, which represented 14% of all employees (**end note 2**) (**end note 5**). Of the employees (**end note 2**) who were reported as receiving a casual loading, 461,400 (42%) were men and 644,100 (58%) were women. Of all male employees (**end note 2**), 11% were reported as receiving a casual loading. In contrast, 17% of all female employees (**end note 2**) were reported as receiving a casual loading.

The ABS defines casual loading as 'the provision by an employer of a higher rate of pay to compensate for not being entitled to paid holiday leave and/or paid sick leave'. One of the main benefits of using casual loading as a proxy measure of casual employment is that it clearly defines employees (**end note 2**) through their pay conditions. However, a key disadvantage is that the person responding to the survey (ARA) may not know about their own pay components, or about the pay components of others in the household.

In addition, the casual loading measure relies upon the assumption that casual employees (**end note 2**) actually receive a higher rate of pay to compensate for the lack of paid leave entitlements, whereas not all casual employees (**end note 2**) may receive a higher rate of pay.

The casual loading measure of casual employment provides the smallest estimate of the three measures (see Graph 1).

## 1. Comparing measures of casual employment - November 2006



(a) Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). See end note 2.  
Source: Working Time Arrangements Survey, November 2006.

### Treatment of the 'don't know' responses in the three measures

A key difference between the three measures is the treatment of 'don't know' responses. What is interesting to note is that 'don't know' responses for whether a person receives a casual loading as part of pay are separately identified in that data item, whereas for the other two measures they are not. In November 2006, there were an estimated 404,500 employees (**end note 2**) (equivalent to 5% of all employees (**end note 2**)) for whom it was reported that they did not know whether they received a casual loading as part of their pay.

In contrast, the 'don't know' response is not a valid response for whether respondents consider their job to be casual as people must respond with either 'yes' or 'no'.

For the leave entitlements measure, the treatment of 'don't know' responses is a bit more complex. For each leave entitlement (paid holiday leave and paid sick leave), 'don't know' is a valid response and they are separately identified in the individual data items. However, to determine paid leave entitlements, where a 'don't know' response is not desired, a decision matrix is used. For those who answered 'yes' to either one, or both, paid holiday or paid sick leave, they are deemed to be with leave entitlements. For those that have a combination of 'no' and 'don't know' responses, they are deemed to be without leave entitlements.

### OVERLAP BETWEEN THE THREE MEASURES

The following table demonstrates the overlap between the three measures of casual employment. It presents employees (**end note 2**) with and without paid leave entitlements cross-classified by self-identified casuals and by those who received a casual loading as part of their pay.

#### 2. Measures of casual employment, Employees(a) - November 2006

Measures of casual employment	With paid leave entitlements '000	Without paid leave entitlements '000	Total '000
Self-identified as casual			
Received casual loading	65.9	855.0	920.8
Did not receive casual loading	83.9	510.9	594.8
Did not know	21.9	215.9	237.8
Total	171.6	1 581.8	1 753.4
Did not self-identify as casual			
Received casual loading	166.7	18.0	184.7
Did not receive casual loading	5 674.4	183.6	5 858.0
Did not know	144.3	22.4	166.7
Total	5 985.4	224.0	6 209.4
Total			
Received casual loading	232.5	873.0	1 105.5
Did not receive casual loading	5 758.3	694.5	6 452.7
Did not know	166.2	238.3	404.5
Total	6 157.0	1 805.8	7 962.8

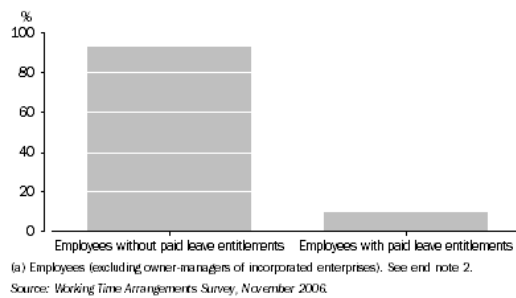
(a) Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). See end note 2.  
Source: Working Time Arrangements Survey, November 2006.

The table above shows that while the three different measures of casual employment are mutually exclusive, there is a large overlap.

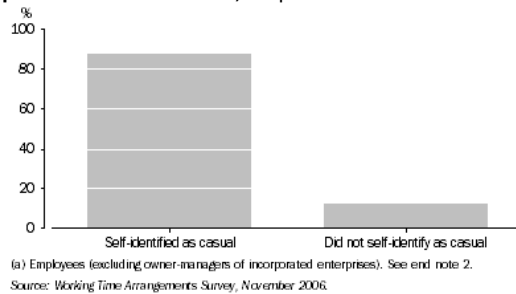
Overall, there were 855,000 employees (**end note 2**) (11% of all employees (**end note 2**)) who were without paid leave entitlements, who also self-identified as casual and were reported as receiving a casual loading. These people represented close to half of all employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements (47%) and self-identified casuals (49%), and 77% of those who were reported as receiving a casual loading.

In particular, there was a large overlap between self-identified casuals and employees (**end note 2**) without paid leave entitlements. While both of these measures represented nearly a quarter of all employees (**end note 2**), approximately nine out of every ten (93%) employees (**end note 2**) who self-identified as a casual were without leave entitlements and 88% of those employees (**end note 2**) without leave entitlements also self-identified as a casual (see Graphs 3 and 4).

#### 3. Employees(a) who self-identified as casual, Proportion who were without paid leave entitlements - November 2006



#### 4. Employees(a) without paid leave entitlements, Proportion who self-identified as casual - November 2006



Even though fewer employees (**end note 2**) reported that they received a casual loading compared to the other two measures of casual employment, there was still an overlap between those receiving a casual loading and the other measures. In November 2006, there were 873,000 employees (**end note 2**) who were reported as receiving a casual loading as part of their pay and who did not receive paid leave entitlements. This represented 79% of all employees (**end note 2**) who received a casual loading. There were also 920,800 employees (**end note 2**) who received a casual loading as part of their pay and self-identified as a casual. This represented 83% of employees (**end note 2**) who received a casual loading.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF CASUAL EMPLOYEES (**end note 2**)

For the remainder of this article, employees (**end note 2**) defined as casual by any of the three measures will be referred to as 'casual' employees (**end note 2**), except where one particular measure of casual employment is being discussed.

Regardless of the measure used to define casual employees (**end note 2**), all three tend to portray similar characteristics (see Table 5). That is, they are more likely (than all employees (**end note 2**)) to be female, young and employed part-time.

#### 5. Casual employees(a), Sex, age and employment status - November 2006

Characteristics of casual employees		Without paid leave entitlements		Self-identified as casual		Received casual loading		All employees (excluding OMIes)	
		'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Sex									
	Males	795.0	44.0	726.8	41.5	461.4	41.7	4 142.7	52.0
	Females	1 010.8	56.0	1 026.6	58.5	644.1	58.3	3 820.1	48.0
Age									
	15-19	205.1	11.4	204.7	11.7	118.4	10.7	401.1	5.0
	20-24	377.5	20.9	369.7	21.1	226.5	20.5	1 042.2	13.1
	25-34	355.7	19.7	338.2	19.3	231.5	20.9	1 937.7	24.3
	35-44	343.0	19.0	336.4	19.2	222.3	20.1	1 887.7	23.7
	45-54	285.3	15.8	280.3	16.0	184.4	16.7	1 726.2	21.7
	55-64	191.5	10.6	181.5	10.4	103.0	9.3	864.7	10.9
	65 and over	47.7	2.6	42.5	2.4	19.3	1.7	103.2	1.3
Employment status									
	Full-time employed	633.1	35.1	549.8	31.4	409.3	37.0	5 782.6	72.6
	Part-time employed	1 172.7	64.9	1 203.6	68.6	696.2	63.0	2 180.2	27.4
<b>Total employees</b>		<b>1 805.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 753.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 105.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 962.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). See end note 2.  
Source: **Working Time Arrangements Survey, November 2006.**

There is a strong link between working part-time hours (less than 35 hours a week in all jobs) and working as a casual employee (**end note 2**). In November 2006, around two-thirds (between 63-69% for all three measures) of casual employees (**end note 2**) worked part-time, compared with 27% for all employees (**end note 2**).

Although young people (aged 15-24 years) made up 18% of all employees (**end note 2**) in November 2006, they comprised close to a third of casual employees (**end note 2**) (around 31-33% for all three measures). This is closely related to the relatively high participation of young people in education and their tendency to combine work with study.

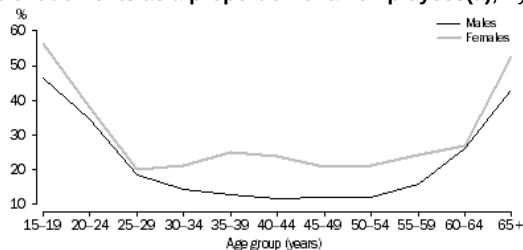
The age distribution of casual employees (**end note 2**) followed the same pattern for all three measures of casual employment, however there were some differences between men and women. Casual male employees (**end note 2**) were more likely to be young compared with casual female employees (**end note 2**). Using without paid leave entitlements as an example, over a third (36%) of all male casu als were aged 15-24 years and a further 22% were aged 25-34 years. In contrast, 30% of female casu als were aged 15-24 years and a further 18% were aged 25-34 years.

Graph 6 indicates that for both men and women, employees (**end note 2**) aged 15-19 years and 65 years and over were more likely to be without paid leave entitlements than all other age groups. However, proportionally more female employees (**end note 2**) than male,

particularly from the age of 30 onwards, were without paid leave entitlements (between 25-30%), reflecting the fact that many women work part time hours to balance work with family commitments. In contrast, most men of this age tend to have full-time ongoing employment arrangements (between 12-16% were without paid leave entitlements).

While women represent less than half (48%) of all employees (**end note 2**), they were more likely than men to be employed as casuals (between 56-59% of casuals in all three measures were women). This is because women are more likely to work part-time hours to enable them to balance work with family commitments, thus they are more likely to be employed as casuals.

#### 6. Employees(a) without paid leave entitlements as a proportion of all employees(a), By sex and age group - November 2006



(a) Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). See end note 2.  
Source: Working Time Arrangements Survey, November 2006.

#### In which industries and occupations do casuals work?

Casual employees (**end note 2**) are over represented in particular industries and occupations. Generally, the industries and occupations in which casual employees (**end note 2**) work are those which offer jobs that are part-time and jobs that require lower levels of skill.

While casual employees (**end note 2**) accounted for less than a quarter of all employees (**end note 2**), all three measures of casual employment indicate that casual employees (**end note 2**) were overrepresented in the Accommodation and food services industry in November 2006. Of those employees (**end note 2**) working in this industry, 56% were without leave entitlements and 57% were self-identified casuals. Employees (**end note 2**) receiving a casual loading represented 32% of all employees (**end note 2**) in the Accommodation and food services industry.

Other industries with high proportions of casual employees (**end note 2**) were Agriculture, forestry and fishing, and Arts and recreation services. However for those who reported receiving a casual loading as part of their pay, the Retail trade, and Administrative and support services industries had higher proportions of these types of casuals (24% and 20% respectively) compared to the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (17%).

The Electricity, gas, water and waste services industry and the Financial and insurance services industry were least likely to employ casual staff. Based on the three measures of casual employment, less than 10% of employees (**end note 2**) in those industries were employed as casuals.

#### 7. Casual employees(a), Industry - November 2006

Industry(b)	All employees '000	Proportion in each industry		Received casual loading %
		Without paid leave entitlements %	Self-identified as casual %	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	128.8	46.5	46.0	17.4
Mining	125.1	9.7	8.4	7.9
Manufacturing	861.3	16.3	16.1	11.2
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	99.4	8.0	5.9	*5.3
Construction	544.3	24.3	18.5	9.3
Wholesale trade	337.8	14.2	13.2	6.9
Retail trade	894.9	35.8	36.9	24.4
Accommodation and food services	475.7	55.9	56.8	32.3
Transport, postal and warehousing	379.7	22.9	22.3	14.2
Information media and telecommunications	214.8	17.4	16.0	11.7
Financial and insurance services	339.8	7.1	6.3	4.4
Rental, hiring and real estate services	131.6	24.1	21.6	10.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	520.2	14.5	11.7	7.0
Administrative and support services	232.8	39.7	37.8	19.7
Public administration and safety	603.6	9.0	8.4	7.2
Education and training	717.0	16.9	18.7	12.4
Health care and social assistance	955.3	19.4	19.0	15.3
Arts and recreation services	125.5	44.5	43.4	22.8
Other services	275.3	19.5	19.8	10.1
<b>Total employees</b>	<b>7 962.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). See end note 2.

(b) Industry is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0).

Source: **Working Time Arrangements Survey, November 2006.**

All three measures indicate that lower skilled occupation groups had higher proportions of casual employees (**end note 2**) than the higher skilled groups. Close to half of employees (**end note 2**) who were Labourers were without leave entitlements or considered their job to be casual (45% for both), as were two-fifths (40%) of Sales workers. Casuals who reported receiving a casual loading as part of their pay represented 26% of Sales workers who were employees (**end note 2**) and 25% of Labourers. Employees (**end note 2**) who were Managers were the least likely to be casual (less than 8% in all three measures).

#### 8. Casual employees(a), Occupation - November 2006

Occupation(b)	All employees '000	Proportion in each occupation		Received casual loading %
		Without paid leave entitlements %	Self-identified as casual %	

Managers	763.5	7.7	5.5	4.1
Professionals	1 701.5	11.6	10.1	8.1
Technicians and trades workers	1 136.6	16.6	14.3	9.1
Community and personal service workers	783.2	36.2	37.6	23.6
Clerical and administrative workers	1 350.8	17.6	17.9	10.8
Sales workers	757.7	40.2	40.4	25.9
Machinery operators and drivers	587.7	23.4	22.9	14.7
Labourers	881.8	45.0	45.3	24.9
<b>Total employees</b>	<b>7 962.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>

(a) Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises). See end note 2.

(b) Occupation is classified according to the **ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0).

Source: **Working Time Arrangements Survey, November 2006.**

## FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON CASUAL EMPLOYEES (end note 2)

There is no one definitive measure to determine the number of people in casual employment at any one time, however, the ABS most regularly uses information on paid leave entitlements as a proxy for measuring casual employment in the Australian labour force. The following ABS household surveys collect data on the following measures of casual employment:

### Employees (end note 2) without paid leave entitlements

- Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey
- Forms of Employment Survey
- Job Search Experience Survey
- Working Time Arrangements Survey
- Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation
- Multi-Purpose Household Survey topics:
  - Retirement and Retirement Intentions
  - Work Related Injuries

### Employees (end note 2) who considered their job to be casual

- Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey
- Forms of Employment Survey
- Working Time Arrangements Survey
- Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation

### Employees (end note 2) who received a casual loading as part of their pay

- Working Time Arrangements Survey
- Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation

## Business survey

In addition to the household surveys, the Employee Earnings and Hours business survey also collects information about whether an employee is casual. In this survey, employers are asked to identify whether the employees selected in the survey are casual, and in conjunction they are asked whether these employees receive a casual loading or a higher rate of pay to compensate for a lack of leave entitlements. Information on employees is collected directly from the employer's payroll records, and this is an alternative way of looking at casuals since in this survey they are identified as such by their employers.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Working Time Arrangements Survey, see the Working Time Arrangements, Australia, November 2006 (cat. no. 6342.0) publication. This publication is available free of charge on the ABS web site <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>.

For further information about the information presented in this article, please contact Scott Lee in Canberra on (02) 6252 7635 or email <[scott.lee@abs.gov.au](mailto:scott.lee@abs.gov.au)>.

## END NOTES

1. Watson, I. 2004, Contented Casuals in Inferior Jobs? Reassessing Casual Employment in Australia, Working paper no. 94, Australian Centre of Industrial Relations Research and Training, Sydney.

2. Employees excluding owner managers of an incorporated enterprise (OMIEs). Owner managers of incorporated enterprises are people who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

3. The Working Time Arrangements Survey collects information about the working arrangements of employees (**end note 2**) in their main job and the patterns of employees (**end note 2**) work in all jobs. This survey was last conducted in November 2006 and is one of a range of supplementary surveys run in conjunction with the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). This survey was used for the analysis in this article as it is currently the only supplementary survey that collects all three measures of casual employment. Questions were asked of people who were employees (**end note 2**) in their main job, except those who were contributing family workers in their main job and those aged 15-19 years who were still at school.

4. For further information on the Any Responsible Adult (ARA) method, please see Chapter 17 in 'Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods' (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) available free of charge on the ABS website.

5. Although the statistics presented in this article are restricted to employees excluding OMIEs, the question about whether they received a casual loading as part of their pay was asked of all employees.

# Explanatory Notes

## Explanatory Notes

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### INTRODUCTION

1 **Australian Labour Market Statistics** brings together a range of ABS labour statistics to present a statistical summary of the Australian labour market. It has been developed primarily as a reference document, and provides a broad basis for labour analysis and research.

2 In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Labour Price Index, Job Vacancies, Employment and Earnings - Public Sector, and Industrial Disputes. The publication also includes summary data from recently released labour force supplementary surveys.

3 This publication includes international data for selected labour market indicators.

#### LABOUR STATISTICS CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

4 The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), which is available on the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Themes - People - Labour - **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods**].

5 For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

#### LABOUR STATISTICS THEME PAGE

6 The Labour Statistics theme page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS website. The page contains hyperlinks to **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001); information about labour related surveys; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys. The Labour Theme Page can be accessed at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Themes - People - Labour].

#### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES

7 Series in this publication include **original**, **seasonally adjusted** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the seasonally adjusted and trend series are subject to revision.

8 It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from seasonally adjusted and trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements)
- short-term irregular changes
- regular seasonal influences
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns
- systematic holiday effects.

9 Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. This means that month-to-month movements of the seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.

10 The Labour Force Survey uses the concurrent seasonal adjustment method to derive seasonal factors. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses data up to the current month to estimate seasonal factors for the current and all previous months. This process can result in revisions each month to estimates for earlier periods. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the seasonally adjusted estimates for the previous month and one year prior to the current month.

11 Seasonal adjustment is able to remove the effect of events which occur at the same time in the survey every year. However, there are some events, like holidays, which are not always at the same time in the survey cycle or which are not at the same time across Australia. The effects of these types of events on Labour Force Survey estimates cannot in all cases be removed, because the pattern of their effects cannot be determined. However, two events which are adjusted for in the seasonally adjusted series are the January interview start date and the timing of Easter.

12 Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

**13** Trend estimates are produced by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

**14** Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

**15** Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force see [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)
- for labour price index see [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0)
- for average weekly earnings see [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0)
- for public sector employees see [Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001)
- for job vacancies see [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0).

**16** The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in [Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends](#) (cat. no. 1349.0).

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**17** Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error - errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population
- non-sampling error - errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

**18** For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in [Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005](#) (cat. no. 6298.0). To assist users, a spreadsheet incorporating the revised standard error models using composite estimation is available from [Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, 2007](#) (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

## ROUNDING

**19** Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

### Description of the survey

**20** Data in tables 1.1-1.7, 2.1-2.10, 3.1-3.3, and 4.1 to 4.6 are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which provides extensive information about the labour market on a monthly basis. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

### Monthly Population Survey

**21** The MPS is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 23,000 houses, flats, etc.), and list samples of discrete Indigenous communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.24% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

### Labour Force Survey

**22** The LFS has been conducted on a monthly basis since February 1978. Prior to that, from 1964 to 1978, a national survey was conducted quarterly. Telephone interviewing was introduced between August 1996 and February 1997. New questionnaires have been introduced periodically, most recently in April 2001.

**23** The LFS includes all usual residents of Australia aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

**24** From July 1993, Jervis Bay Territory has been excluded from the scope of the LFS.

## Supplementary surveys



25 The supplementary surveys collect additional data on a different topic each month. Many topics covered are rotated on an annual or less frequent basis, while others are included once only. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately. A list of topics covered in recent years is in Appendix 3.

26 The supplementary surveys include a subset of the persons included in the LFS (see paragraph 20). The additional exclusions for most supplementary surveys are:

- persons living in private dwellings in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia
- institutionalised persons
- boarding school pupils.

### Multi-Purpose Household Survey

27 The Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) was introduced in 2004-05. This survey vehicle is designed to provide statistics annually for a number of small, self contained topics, including a number of labour related topics. Data for MPHS topics are collected each month over a financial year. A list of topics covered in recent years is in Appendix 3.

28 In addition to those already excluded from the LFS, the following people are excluded from most MPHS topics:

- people under 15 years
- people living in private dwellings in very remote parts of Australia
- people living in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities) and inmates of prisons
- visitors to private dwellings.

29 Depending on the topic, there may be further exclusions from scope. For example, some MPHS topics collect information only from a certain population or interest group (e.g. information on retirement and retirement intentions is collected from people aged 45 years or over).

### Reference period

30 Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

### Notes on data

31 From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996-97.

32 In February 2004 the definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week, with consequent revisions to data from April 2001 to January 2004. For further details, see **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2003** (cat. no. 6292.0).

33 In May 2007, an improved method of estimation, known as composite estimation, was introduced into the Labour Force Survey. In introducing this change the ABS revised unit record data from April 2001 to April 2007 based on the new estimation method. While estimates for periods prior to April 2001 are unrevised and were compiled using a different estimation method, no trend break was identified in the employed persons series. Also, no change was identified in the trend breaks in the unemployed persons and unemployment rate series which arose with the introduction of a redesigned survey form in April 2001. For further details, see **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007** (cat. no. 6292.0).

34 The sample size of the Labour Force Survey for July 2008 was reduced by 24% when compared with the June 2008 sample. Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in **Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)** (cat. no. 6269.0), which was released on 25 July 2008.

35 The reduced sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia. However, there will be increased volatility in the estimates, particularly the original and seasonally adjusted estimates. Therefore, the ABS continues to encourage users to focus on trend estimates.

### Population benchmarks

36 Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are projections of the most recently released quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. For information on the methodology used to produce the ERP see **Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly** (cat. no. 3101.0). To create the population benchmarks for the Labour Force Survey, the most recently released quarterly ERP estimates are projected forward one quarter past the period for which they are required. The projection is based on the historical pattern of each population component - births, deaths, interstate migration and overseas migration. By projecting one quarter past that needed for the current population benchmarks, demographic changes are smoothed in, thereby making them less noticeable in the population benchmarks.

37 The ERP series are revised annually in the March quarter issue of **Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly** (cat. no. 3101.0), released in September each year, to incorporate more up to date information available for the population components. The revised ERP estimates are used to update the quarterly population projections used in creating the Labour Force Survey population benchmarks. Benchmarks already used in producing the Labour Force Survey estimates are not updated. A process of smoothing is used in the creation of population benchmarks to reduce the effect of these annual revisions to ERP estimates on the Labour Force Survey population benchmarks.

38 Every five years the ERP series are revised to incorporate additional information available from the latest Census of Population and Housing. Following the incorporation of Census information, the ERP series prior to the latest Census are final and subject to no further

revision. Labour Force Survey population benchmarks, and the estimates, are revised following this 5-yearly revision in the ERP. From the February 2004 issue of this publication, labour force estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were made in that issue to historical labour force estimates from January 1999 to January 2004.

## Estimation method

**39** The estimation method used in the Labour Force Survey is Composite Estimation, which was introduced in May 2007. Composite Estimation combines data collected in the previous six months with current month's data to produce the current month's estimates, thereby exploiting the high correlation between overlapping samples across months in the Labour Force Survey. The Composite Estimator combines the previous and current months' data by applying different factors according to length of time in the survey. After these factors are applied, the seven months of data are weighted to align with current month population benchmarks. For details see **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007** (cat. no. 6292.0).

## Families series

**40** Family relationship is not determined for all households and persons in scope of the LFS. This is due to a number of factors related to the scope and coverage of the LFS, as well as difficulties in determining family structure and characteristics. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions)
- persons enumerated as visitors to (rather than usual residents of) private dwellings.

**41** In addition, in those households where it is not possible to obtain information relating to all the usual residents, no family information is recorded. Thus, persons living in households that include a member of the permanent defence forces, who is outside the scope of the LFS, are excluded from survey questions used to determine family relationships. This also applies to households that, at the time of the survey, had one or more of their usual residents away for more than six weeks, and households from which an incomplete or inadequate questionnaire was obtained for any usual resident in scope of the survey.

## Further information and data on the LFS

**42** LFS estimates are published monthly in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0). A series of time series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under cat. no. 6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, one week later, under cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 for monthly data, or cat. no. 6291.0.55.003 for quarterly data. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS website at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. Additional data are available on request.

**43** For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to **Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products** (cat. no. 6297.0) and **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## INTERNATIONAL DATA

**44** Table 1.8 contains data from the International Labour Organisation.

**45** Estimates of key indicators of the labour markets from various countries have been included for comparison with Australian estimates of labour force participation, employment, unemployment and unemployment rates.

## EMPLOYER SURVEY DATA

**46** Tables 2.11, 5.1-5.3, 6.1-6.2 and 7.1 of this publication contain data from ABS employer surveys.

## Scope of employer surveys

**47** Except where otherwise noted, the sample for ABS labour employer surveys is selected from the ABS Business Register, which is primarily based on registrations to the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Pay As You Go Withholding scheme. The population is updated quarterly to take account of new businesses, businesses that have ceased employing, changes in employment levels, changes in industry, and other general business changes. Businesses excluded from the scope of the employer surveys are:

- those primarily engaged in Agriculture, forestry and fishing (except for the Survey of Employment and Earnings)
- private households employing staff
- overseas embassies, consulates, etc.
- those located outside Australia.

## PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES DATA

### Description of the survey

**48** Table 2.11 contains employment data from the Survey of Employment and Earnings - Public Sector (SEE).

**49** The Survey of Employment and Earnings was conducted on a quarterly basis since the September quarter 1983. The June quarter 2007 issue of the publication **Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia** (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001) was the final issue. The quarterly survey has been replaced with an annual survey commencing with the 2007-08 reference year and data are expected to be released in January 2009. The survey measures both the number of public sector wage and salary earners employed at the last pay period of the

financial year and their total earnings.

#### Reference period

50 The reference period for employment is the last pay period of the financial year.

#### Notes on data

51 The private sector component of the Survey of Employment and Earnings was discontinued after the December quarter 2001.

52 The privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 significantly impacted the public sector employment series. Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised on 20 November 2006. For the purpose of ABS statistics this change from public sector to private sector is effective from March quarter 2007. For more information please see [Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 8102.0).

53 As a result of privatisation, Telstra Corporation was no longer in the scope of SEE, and Telstra data were excluded from the series from March quarter 2007. As a result, a trend break was applied to the Commonwealth government and total public sector employees series between November 2006 and February 2007.

#### Further information

54 For further information about data relating to public sector employees, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001), and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

#### WAGE PRICE INDEX DATA

55 Table 5.1 contains data from the [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0) publication.

#### Description of the survey

56 The Labour Price Index measures change in the price of labour in the Australian labour market, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed. i.e. it is unaffected by changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g. work performance). In the LPI, index numbers are compiled for a range of wage and non-wage costs. Information about the wage price indexes has been released for each quarter since September 1997. Approximately 20,000 matched jobs from 4,800 businesses are priced each quarter.

#### Reference period

57 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

#### Further information

58 For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Price Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website and [Labour Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001).

#### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DATA

59 Table 5.2 contains data from the Survey of Average Weekly Earnings (AWE).

#### Description of the survey

60 The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 5,500 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings of employee jobs in Australia.

61 Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

#### Reference period

62 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

#### Notes on data

63 The privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 has significantly impacted on the private sector and public sector average weekly earnings series. Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised on 20 November 2006. For the purposes of ABS statistics this change from public sector to private sector is effective from March quarter 2007. The effect of this change is significant for both the private sector and public sector series. As a result, a trend break has been applied to both series between November 2006 and February 2007. For more

information please see [Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 8102.0).

#### Further information

64 For further information about average weekly earnings statistics and the concepts and methodology used refer to [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0), and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

#### NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DATA

65 Table 5.3 contains data from the Australian National Accounts.

66 Estimates of compensation of employees are contained within the Income Accounts of the Australian National Accounts, which are published in [Australian System of National Accounts](#) (cat. no. 5204.0) and [Australian Economic Indicators](#) (cat. no. 1350.0). For further information on how estimates are obtained, see [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0).

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES DATA

67 Tables 6.1 and 6.2 contain data from the Industrial Disputes collection.

#### Description of the survey

68 The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

69 The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

70 Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

#### Reference period

71 The collection reference period is the calendar quarter.

#### Further information

72 For further information about industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to the electronic publication [Industrial Disputes, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001), and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

#### JOB VACANCIES DATA

73 Table 7.1 contains data from the Job Vacancies Survey (JVS).

#### Description of the survey

74 The Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983 and is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 5,000 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia. The May 2008 issue of the publication [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0), released in June 2008, was the final issue for 2008. The Job Vacancies Survey will not be conducted during 2008-09 and may be reinstated in 2009-10.

#### Reference date

75 The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

#### Notes on data

76 Prior to the August quarter 1999, job vacancies statistics were collected as part of the Job Vacancies and Overtime Survey. The overtime component of the survey ceased following the May quarter 1999.

77 The privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 impacted the private sector and public sector job vacancies series. For the purposes of ABS statistics this change from public sector to private sector was effective from March quarter 2007. For more information please see [Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 8102.0).

78 Although the privatisation of Telstra Corporation in November 2006 impacted on both the private and public sector series, the effect was significant only for the public sector series. As a result, a trend break was applied to the public sector series between November 2006 and February 2007.

#### Further information

79 For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website and [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## Glossary

### GLOSSARY

#### Active steps to find work

Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory noticeboards or the touchscreens at Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

#### Actual hours worked

The hours actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

#### Adult employees

Adult employees are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

#### Aggregate (actual) hours worked

The total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

#### Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15-24 years who were enrolled full-time at secondary school, high school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

#### Average compensation per employee

**National Accounts.** The total compensation of employees divided by the number of employees.

#### Average earnings (National Accounts basis)

See **average compensation per employee**.

#### Average hours worked

Aggregate hours worked by a group divided by the number of persons in that group.

#### Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

#### Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

#### Commonwealth government employees

Employees of all departments, agencies and authorities created by or reporting to the Commonwealth Parliament. Those bodies run jointly by the Commonwealth Government and state governments are classified to Commonwealth.

#### Compensation of employees

**National Accounts.** The total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by enterprises to employees in return for work done by the employees during the accounting period. Compensation of employees comprises wages and salaries (in cash and in kind) and **employers' social contributions**. Compensation of employees is not payable in respect of unpaid work undertaken voluntarily, including the work done by members of a household within an unincorporated enterprise owned by the same household. Compensation of employees excludes any taxes payable by the employer on the wage and salary bill (e.g. payroll tax, fringe benefits tax). See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

#### Contributing family worker

A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

#### Country of birth

Classified according to the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\)](#) (cat. no. 1269.0).

## **Couple families**

A family based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household.

## **Dependants**

All family members under 15 years, and all children aged 15-24 years attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

## **Dependent child**

Any child in a family under 15 years of age or aged 15-24 years who is attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

## **Dependent student**

A child who is 15-24 years of age, who is attending full-time education, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.

## **Discouraged jobseekers**

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young by employers
- considered to be too old by employers
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background
- no jobs in their locality or line of work
- no jobs available at all.

## **Duration of unemployment**

Under the redesigned LFS questionnaire, implemented in April 2001, the definition of duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Prior to April 2001, duration of unemployment was defined in the LFS as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

## **Employed**

Employed persons include all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or locked out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

## **Employed full-time**

See **full-time employed**.

## **Employed part-time**

See **part-time employed**.

## **Employee**

**Labour Force Survey and other household surveys.** A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

**Employer surveys.** Employees are wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period. For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

## **Employee job**

**Wage Price Index.** A job for which the occupant receives remuneration in wages, salary, payment in kind, or piece rates. All employee jobs in all employing organisations (except those excluded from all ABS labour employer surveys) are in scope of the WPI, except the following:

- 'non-maintainable' jobs (i.e. jobs that are expected to be occupied for less than six months of a year)
- jobs for which wages and salaries are not determined by the Australian labour market (e.g. working proprietors of small incorporated

enterprises, most employees of Community Development Employment Programs, jobs where the remuneration is set in a foreign country).

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

## **Employer**

**Labour Force Survey and other household surveys.** A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

**Employer surveys.** A business with one or more employees.

## **Employers' social contributions**

**National Accounts.** Contributions by employers to pension and superannuation funds; and premiums paid by employers to workers' compensation schemes for occupational injuries and diseases.

## **Extended labour force underutilisation rate**

The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of marginally attached to the labour force:

- (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks and
- (ii) discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii).

## **Family**

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

## **Family reference person**

In families which are not couple families or one-parent families, as defined, the family reference person is the eldest person in the household.

## **Former workers**

Unemployed persons who have previously worked for two weeks or more but not in the last two years.

## **Full-time educational attendance**

Persons aged 15-19 who, during the reference week were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15-24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

## **Full-time employed**

**Household surveys.** Persons employed full-time are those employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

## **Full-time employees**

**Employer surveys.** Full-time employees are permanent, fixed term and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

## **Gross domestic product (GDP)**

**National Accounts.** The total market value of goods and services produced in Australia within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital. Thus gross domestic product, as here defined, is at 'market prices'. It is equivalent to gross national expenditure plus exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

## **Gross mixed income (GMI)**

**National Accounts.** The owners of unincorporated enterprises, or other members of their households, may work without receiving any wage or salary. Mixed income includes both **gross operating surplus** for the unincorporated enterprises and returns for the proprietors' own labour (akin to wages and salaries). See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

## **Gross operating surplus (GOS)**

**National Accounts.** The amount of gross output remaining after subtracting costs incurred in producing that output, but before any deductions for consumption of fixed capital. See [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information.

## **Household**

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but no meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

### **Industrial dispute**

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

### **Industry**

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993** (cat. no. 1292.0). The industry assigned to an employed person is the industry of the organisation in which the person's main job is located. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry of their most recent job.

### **Job leavers**

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job voluntarily** - that is, because (for example): of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.

### **Job losers**

Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and **left that job involuntarily**: that is, they were laid off or retrenched from that job; left that job because of their own ill-health or injury; the job was seasonal or temporary; or their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.

### **Job vacancy**

A job vacancy is an employee job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are vacancies:

- for jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled that same day
- for jobs of less than one day's duration
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s)
- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date
- for work to be carried out by contractors
- for which no recruitment action has been taken
- where a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty
- to be filled by staff from contract labour agencies
- for jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation.

For information about scope exclusions applying to employer surveys, refer to paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Notes.

### **Labour force**

The labour force is the labour supply available for the production of economic goods and services in a given period, and is the most widely used measure of the economically active population. Persons in the labour force are classified as either employed or unemployed according to their activities during the reference period by using a specific set of priority rules.

### **Labour force status**

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

### **Labour force underutilisation rate**

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Local government employees**

Employees of municipalities and shires and other local authorities created by or subject to the provisions of local government legislation, such as county councils in New South Wales.

### **Lone parent**

A person who has no spouse or partner present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one dependent or non-dependent child usually resident in the household.

### **Lone person**

A person who makes provision for their food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household. They may live in a dwelling on their own or share a dwelling with another individual or family.

### **Long-term unemployed**



Persons unemployed for 12 months or more. See **duration of unemployment** for details of the calculation of duration of unemployment.

### **Long-term unemployment rate**

The number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Marginal attachment to the labour force**

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work, and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care was available.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

### **Marital status**

See **social marital status**.

### **Mean age**

The sum of the ages of all the persons in a group, divided by the total number of persons in that group.

### **Mean duration of unemployment**

The sum of the duration of unemployment of all the unemployed persons in a group, divided by the total number of unemployed persons in that group.

### **Median age**

The age which divides a group of persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose age is above the median; and the other, persons whose age is below it.

### **Median duration of unemployment**

The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups: one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median; and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

### **Non-dependent child**

A child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, aged over 15 years and who is not a dependent student aged 15-24 years, and who has no partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

### **Non-family member**

A person who is not related to any other member of the household in which they are living.

### **Not in the labour force**

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

### **Occupation**

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their main tasks to be grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to the **ASCO Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition** (cat. no. 1220.0). The occupation assigned to an employed person relates to the person's main job. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the occupation of their most recent job.

### **One-parent family**

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.

### **Ordinary time earnings**

See **weekly ordinary time earnings**.

### **Original series**

Estimates produced directly from the survey data, before seasonal adjustment or trend estimation takes place.

### **Other family**

Related individuals residing in the same household who do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as other family.

### **Overtime earnings**

See **weekly overtime earnings**.

### **Own account workers**

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engaged independently in a profession or trade, and hired no employees.

### **Owner managers of incorporated enterprises**

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'. Technically they are employees, however, they are similar in characteristics to owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

### **Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises**

People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account workers if they do not.

### **Participation rate**

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that group, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

### **Part-time employed**

**Household surveys.** Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

### **Reason for leaving last job**

Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years classified by whether they left that job voluntarily, that is, job leavers; or left that job involuntarily, that is, job losers.

### **Seasonally adjusted series**

A time series of estimates with the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation removed. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

### **Social marital status**

Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.

### **State capital cities**

The areas determining the six state capital cities are the Statistical Divisions for those capital cities defined in the **Statistical Geography: Volume 1 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)** (cat. no. 1216.0).

### **State government employees**

Employees of all State government departments and authorities created by, or reporting to, State Parliaments, including organisations for which the Commonwealth has assumed financial responsibility. Following self-government, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory administrations have been classified to State Governments. Employees of State Governments employed interstate are included in the estimates of the State in which they are based.

### **Status in employment**

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

### **Total earnings**

See **weekly total earnings**.

### **Total hourly rates of pay index excluding bonuses**

**Wage Price Index.** This index measures quarterly change in a weighted combination of ordinary time and overtime hourly rates of pay. See **Labour Price Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) for more information.

### **Trend series**

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See paragraphs 7-13 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

### **Underemployed workers**

Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

### **Underemployment rate**

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Unemployed**

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

### **Unemployed looking for first full-time job**

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

### **Unemployed looking for first job**

Unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

### **Unemployed looking for full-time work**

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work, or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

### **Unemployed looking for part-time work**

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only, or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

### **Unemployment rate**

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Unemployment to population ratio**

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

### **Usual hours worked**

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

### **Wage and salary earners**

See **employee**.

### **Weekly ordinary time earnings**

Weekly ordinary time earnings refers to one week's earnings of employees for the reference period attributable to award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation, board and lodging) have been made. Included are piecework payments and one week's portion of regular production and task bonuses and commissions. Excluded are overtime payments and payments not related to the reference period, e.g. bonus payments for earlier periods of work.

### **Weekly overtime earnings**

Weekly overtime earnings refers to payment for hours worked in the reference week in excess of award, standard or agreed hours of work, calculated before taxation and any other deductions (e.g. superannuation) have been made.

### **Weekly total earnings**

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

### **Working days lost**

Refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute.

### **Working days lost per thousand employees**

Calculated for a quarterly period by dividing the total number of working days lost in the period by the total number of employees in the Australian labour force in the period (obtained from the ABS Labour Force Survey) and multiplying by 1,000.

## Abbreviations

### ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this product:

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWE	average weekly earnings
EEH	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
ID	industrial disputes
ILO	International Labour Organization
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LPI	labour price index
MPHS	Multi-Purpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
qtr	quarter
RSE	relative standard error
SEE	Survey of Employment and Earnings
WPI	wage price index

## Data sources for tables (Appendix)

### APPENDIX DATA SOURCES FOR TABLES

#### HOW TO FIND DATA SOURCES

All ABS statistics can be downloaded free of charge from the ABS website.

To find a labour market related publication, spreadsheet or datacube on the ABS website, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Statistics - By Catalogue Number - 6. Labour Statistics and Prices]. All products can be accessed by catalogue number and subject e.g. to find the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Select '6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia' and from the Summary tab select the Details tab.

No.	Table description	Data source	Notes
1.1	Labour force status: trend series	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)	
1.2	Age by marital status	6202.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
1.3	States and territories	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	
		Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)	Excludes Capital city/balance of state
		6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	
1.4	Educational attendance	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a	More detailed Age
1.5	Country of birth	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4	Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM5	Includes Sex, Age, State, less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6	Includes Sex, State
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth
	Year of arrival	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4	Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth
		6291.0.55.001 data cube LM7	Includes Sex, State, less detailed Country of birth
1.6	Relationship in household	6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1	Includes State
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2	Includes Age
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM3	Includes Hours worked
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM4	Unemployed persons only, includes Duration of unemployment
1.7	Families	6224.0.55.001 data cube FA2	June data only
1.8	International comparisons	International Labour Organisation, Year Book of Labour Statistics 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002	
		International Labour Organisation, Key Indicators of the Labour Market 2001-02	

	International Labour Organisation, LABORSTA database: <a href="http://laborsta.ilo.org">http://laborsta.ilo.org</a>	
2.1 Industry: trend	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Employed full-time, Employed part-time
2.2 Industry: divisions and subdivisions	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 6	
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E03	Includes Sex, State, Hours worked, less detailed Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E05	Includes Sex, Age, Status in employment, Hours worked
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, Status in employment, Hours worked, more detailed Industry
2.3 Occupation	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 7	Less detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Hours worked, less detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Age, Hours worked, Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes State, Status in employment, more detailed Occupation
2.4 Industry and occupation by full-time/part-time status	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes State, Hours worked
2.5 Industry by status in employment	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	Includes Sex, State, excludes Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E05	Includes Sex, Age, more detailed Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, more detailed Industry
Occupation by status in employment	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	Includes Sex, State, excludes Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Sex, Age, more detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, State, more detailed Occupation
Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 8	Excludes Hours worked, includes Sex, Employed full-time, Employed part-time
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Sex
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	Includes Sex, State
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E05	Includes Sex, Age, Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes Sex, State, Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Sex, Age, Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes Sex, State, Occupation
2.6 Average hours worked in all jobs by Industry	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11	
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E03	Includes State
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E05	Includes Age, Status in employment, more detailed Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06	Includes State, Status in employment, more detailed Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes State, Occupation
Average hours worked in all jobs by occupation	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07	Includes Age, Status in employment, more detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E08	Includes State, Status in employment, more detailed Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09	Includes State, Industry
2.7 Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1	Includes State, Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E03	Includes State, Status in employment
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	
2.8 Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9	
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11	Includes Industry
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12	Includes Occupation
	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 13	Includes Status in employment
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM1	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E03	Includes State, Industry
	6291.0.55.003 data cube E04	Includes State, Status in employment
Usual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 10	
	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM3	Includes Age, State
	6291.0.55.001 data cube E10	Includes State, Industry
2.9 Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2	Includes Age, State, Hours worked
2.10 Future employment expectations by job tenure	6291.0.55.003 data cube E02	Excludes Future employment expectations, Includes Job tenure, State, Age
2.11 Public sector employees	Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001)	
Public sector employees: Australia totals	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	Includes State
Public sector employees by level of government: trend	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	Includes Commonwealth government, State, seasonally adjusted and original data
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3	Includes State government, State, seasonally adjusted and original data
	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Local government, State, seasonally adjusted and original data

	Public sector employees by State: trend	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1	Includes seasonally adjusted and original data
		6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2	Includes Commonwealth government, seasonally adjusted and original data
		6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3	Includes State government, seasonally adjusted and original data
		6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 4	Includes Local government, seasonally adjusted and original data
		6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes Industry
	Public sector employees by industry: original	6248.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 7a	Includes State
	Unemployed persons: duration of unemployment by age	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes Age, median Duration of unemployment
3.1		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Excludes median Duration of unemployment
	3.2 Long-term unemployed	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 14B	
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2	Excludes trend data, includes State, more detailed Duration of unemployment
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3	Excludes trend data, includes State, Age
3.3	Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by industry of last job	6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ1	Excludes Industry of last job
		6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ2	Excludes Reason for unemployment
	Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by occupation of last job	6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ1	Excludes Occupation of last job
		6291.0.55.003 data cube UQ3	Excludes Reason for unemployment
4.1	Underutilised labour: trend series	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.2	Underutilised labour: seasonally adjusted series	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.3	Underutilised labour by age	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.4	Underutilised labour by states and territories	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.5	Underemployed by industry and occupation	Labour Force Survey	Data available on request
4.6	Persons not in the labour force	6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1	
5.1	Labour price index	Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)	
	Labour price index: trend data	6345.0 spreadsheet table 1	
	Labour price index: Australia, states and territories	6345.0 spreadsheet table 2b	
	Labour price index: private sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 3b	Includes States and territories
	Labour price index: public sector	6345.0 spreadsheet table 4b	Includes States and territories
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**February 2003**

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**December 2002**

[Volatility of labour force estimates](#)

**October 2002**

[Measures of labour underutilisation](#)

**February 2002**

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[Using the unemployment rate series to illustrate the seasonal adjustment process](#)

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**November 1999**

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Labour force status and other characteristics of families

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[Labour force projections: 1999-2016](#)

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[Revisions to monthly labour force estimates](#)

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[Concordance between the first and second editions](#) of the **Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)** - revised

## **Related publications (Appendix)**

### **APPENDIX RELATED PUBLICATIONS**

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Title	cat. no.	Frequency	Reference period
Labour force supplementary surveys			
Career Experience	6254.0	Discontinued	Nov 2002
Child Care	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005 reissue
Child Employment	6211.0	Irregular	Jun 2006
Education & Work	6227.0	Annual	May 2007
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership	6310.0	Annual	Aug 2007
Forms of Employment	6359.0	Annual	Nov 2007
Job Search Experience	6222.0	Annual	Jul 2007
Labour Force Experience	6206.0	Biennial	Feb 2007
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Families	6224.0.55.001	Annual	Jun 2008
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Migrants	6250.0	Triennial	Nov 2007
Labour Mobility	6209.0	Biennial	Feb 2006
Locations of Work	6275.0	Irregular	Nov 2005
Multiple Jobholding(a)	6216.0	Discontinued	Aug 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force	6220.0	Annual	Sep 2007
Retrenchment & Redundancy(b)	6266.0	Discontinued	Jul 2001
Underemployed Workers	6265.0	Annual	Sep 2007
Working Time Arrangements	6342.0	Triennial	Nov 2006
Multi purpose household surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation	6239.0	Biennial	Jul 2006 to Jun 2007
Retirement and Retirement Intentions(c)	6238.0	Biennial	Jul 2006 to Jun 2007
Work-Related Injuries(d)	6324.0	Irregular	2005-06
Sub-annual labour surveys			
Average Weekly Earnings	6302.0	Quarterly	May qtr 2008
Industrial Disputes	6321.0.55.001	Quarterly	Jun qtr 2008
Job Vacancies	6354.0	Suspended	May qtr 2008
Labour Force	6202.0	Monthly	Aug 2008
Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6287.0	Annual	2007
Labour Price Index	6345.0	Quarterly	Jun qtr 2008
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia	6248.0.55.001	Discontinued	Jun qtr 2007
Other labour surveys			
Employee Earnings & Hours	6306.0	Biennial	May 2006
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices	6362.0	Irregular	2001-02
Labour Costs	6348.0.55.001	Irregular	2002-03
Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)			
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, CURF, 1994-1997	6286.0.30.001	Irregular	1994 to 1997
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-1997: Expanded CURF	6286.0.55.001	Irregular	1994 to 1997
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns: Expanded CURF, Technical Paper	6286.0.55.002	Irregular	1994 to 1997
Child Care, Australia, Expanded CURF	4402.0.55.001	Irregular	Jun 2005
Child Care, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	4402.0.55.002	Irregular	Jun 2005
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Basic CURF	6202.0.30.001	Biennial	Aug 2006
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia - Basic CURF, Technical Paper	6202.0.30.002	Biennial	Aug 2006
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Expanded CURF	6202.0.30.003	Biennial	Aug 2006
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic CURF	6202.0.30.004	Irregular	Feb 2006
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic CURF, Technical Manual	6202.0.30.005	Irregular	Feb 2006
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.001	Irregular	2005
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF	6278.0.55.002	Irregular	2005
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.003	Irregular	2005
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF	6278.0.55.004	Irregular	2005
Survey of Income and Housing - Basic and Expanded CURFs, Technical Paper	6541.0	Irregular	2005-06
<b>Title</b>	<b>cat. no.</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Latest issue</b>
Information papers and other reference material			
ABS Labour Market Statistics	6106.0.55.001	Irregular	2003
Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular	2000
Changes to ABS Measures of Employee Remuneration	6313.0	Irregular	2006
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular	2003
Estimating Average Annual Hours Worked	1352.0.55.077	Irregular	Jun 2006
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular	2007
Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6224.0.55.002	Irregular	2008
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular	Nov 2007
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular	2005
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, 2007	6298.0.55.001	Irregular	Nov 2007
Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6351.0.55.001	Irregular	2004
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0.55.001	Irregular	Apr 2007
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular	2004
Other publications			
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly	October 2008
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly	Mar qtr 2008
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Annual	2007
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual	2006-07
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Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Characteristics	2017.0	Five yearly	2001
Education & Training Indicators	4230.0	Irregular	2002
Employment Arrangements & Superannuation	6361.0	Irregular	Jun 2000
General Social Survey	4159.0	Irregular	2006
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income	6537.0	Irregular	2003-04
Household Income & Income Distribution	6523.0	Biennial	2005-06
Measures of Australia's Progress	1370.0	Biennial	2006
Regional Wage & Salary Earners - Electronic Publication	5673.0.55.001	Irregular	2003-04
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics	6360.0	Irregular	Jun 2000
Voluntary Work	4441.0	Irregular	2006

(a) Latest data available on request for July 2001.

(b) Related data available from Labour Mobility.

(c) Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey until 1997, data now collected as part of the Multi-Purpose Household Survey.

(d) Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey in 2000, data now collected as part of the Multi-Purpose Household Survey.

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